

angular excavation below it; left anterior somewhat angular, pointed, the posterior oblique, slightly curved; lateral cusps short, pointed; ligament rather slight.

Long. 3.3, alt. 2.8, diam. 2 mill.

Hale.: Flood pools by Murder Creek, 3 miles south-west of Evergreen, Ala. [No. 6742].

Of the several dozen specimens, few if any, were full-grown, probably, all were somewhat rusty colored by a slight ferruginous deposit—combined with the size and shape, and color, the “waxy” dullish surface and the very fine slight striæ are sufficient to distinguish the species.

*P. inornatum*, n. sp.—Mussel small, high, well inflated; beaks little posterior, rather large, rounded somewhat prominent; superior margin rather short, moderately curved, bounded by angles, supero-anterior slope steep, slightly curved, anterior end rounded, posterior margin subtruncate at nearly right angles to the longitudinal axis, inferior margin well rounded; surface somewhat glossy, striæ fine and slight, subregular; color pale-corneous, shell translucent; hinge well formed, plate rather broad; cardinal teeth thin lamellar, all situated rather high up on the plate, the right curved, its posterior part deeply bifid; left anterior angular, posterior long, nearly longitudinal, curved; “side” cusps short, pointed, rugulose; ligament rather strong.

Long. 3, alt. 2.7, diam. 2.1 mill.

Hab.: Swampy land, Roanoke, Randolph Co., Ala. [No. 6747].

Although only about half a dozen specimens, they are sufficient to be recognized as representing a distinct species.

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#### A VACATION TRIP TO CUBA.

BY WALTER F. WEBB.

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If you have been working too hard on the farm, or feel all run down from the laborious duties of an active business or professional life, my advice to you is to take the first train for New York and get aboard one of the steamers heading towards the West Indies. It does not matter much where you get off; Cuba, Jamaica, Hayti or any of the islands farther south.

I went down by train and came back by boat, and the latter is the

most restful and the cheapest. I was determined to meet my old-time correspondent, Mr. C. T. Simpson, and look over the little earthly paradise he has created with his own hands, on a little plot of 15 acres bordering Biscayne Bay. He has one of the most interesting arboretums in the country and one cannot help but admire the artistic beauty of it all, reflecting, as it does, the genius and taste of the owner.

If you want to collect land shells in the West Indies, journey to the nearest hills, cliffs, railroad cuts, etc., and you will find them in all kinds of weather. There had been no rain in two months when I was in Cuba last December and I expected to find collecting poor. I feel sure it was a poor time from a Cuban standpoint, but comparing it with the United States it was a veritable paradise. I landed at my hotel in Havana at 11 a. m. All settled in two hours, and started for one of the nearest likely points. A misty rain set in, which lasted until 3.30, and in two hours, with the aid of a helper, quietly picked up over one thousand perfect live specimens of as handsome *Urocoptis*, of several species, *Chondropoma*, *Oleacina*, *Helicina*, etc., as one would wish to see.

The next day we visited a different locality, exploring some hollows in stone walls, some good cactus patches near the old ocean, where every bit of board end rubbish we turned over revealed from 6 to 15 fine *Cerion*, and our catch was nearly two thousand. Mostly *Chondropoma*, *Cerion*, *Cistula*, etc.

We then started for the mountains in the southwest part of the island, Pinar del Rio province. For days we wandered among limestone cliffs several hundred feet high, explored wild caves evidently the hiding places of numerous bands of guerrillas during the eight-year war, and each day was a repetition of the other. Every section would contain new species different from the day before. We were very successful with the *Urocoptis*, part of which were always found on the sides of cliffs, usually within 15 feet of the ground, and about an equal number of species were always found under stones and other refuse. The *Megalomastomas* were about three inches deep in the ground, and associated with them were numerous *Chondropomas* and other operculates. The *Oleacinas* were always under the edges of stones. Limestone fences well isolated from hills were good collecting, as even some of the large *Helix* were hiding there, as well as *Liguus*. One hollow tree was well coated with good things, and they were hiding among the cactus as well.

A trip to the Province of Matanzas we found to be most interesting. The so-called mountains contained a large list of species and they were easy to collect. It reminded me of the old days years ago, when we used to go berry-picking. For hours one could walk along the face of the cliffs, and there was always enough in sight to keep up plenty of enthusiasm, until one was so completely tired out he was ready to quit. I had a young farmer with me from Indiana, a typical Hoosier, never outside of his county before, and he declared he never was so tired in his life. I will venture to predict that after tramping over a part of the three provinces of Cuba after snails, he will have more to tell his rural friends than the average tourist. His remarks about the country and people from day to day were a constant source of amusement, especially when he was unable to get a thing to eat, in the midst of plenty. A little smattering of Spanish is a good thing to take along with you when visiting a Spanish country. My little guide-book was sometimes more precious than gold, for we were in several towns where we could not find a person who spoke a word of English, and we were equally as ignorant of Spanish.

Not feeling at all sure that the editor of THE NAUTILUS will care for such a rambling article, I will refrain from further notes; but if any reader contemplates a trip to some of the classic collecting grounds of the West Indies, I will be pleased to give them such information as I can, which will help to make the trip a source of pleasure and successful as well.

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#### THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN NAIADES.

BY DR. A. E. ORTMANN.

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Through the courtesy of Mr. W. Israël in Gera-Untermhaus, Germany, I have received a great number of European Naiades with soft parts, representing practically all species known to occur in central Europe. I do not presume to judge on the validity of the numerous species described by certain European writers, but rely in this respect on the opinion of the conchologists like Kobelt, Haas, Thiele, Israël, and others, chiefly since they are at present rather unanimous in assuming only a limited number of species, divided into a larger or smaller number of forms, races or varieties. The chief object of